Credit medical facility to the Ministry staff

103. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all employees of his Ministry have been given credit facility for treatment in private hospitals on Government panel, whereas the same facility is not available to other Central Government employees;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this discrimination;

(c) whether Government plans to do away with this discriminatory policy and provide the facility to all other Central Government employees; and

(d) if so, by when a decision in this regard would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) It is not possible to give credit facilities to other Central Government employees because their bills are settled by their respective Ministries/Departments, whereas in the case of pensioners and officials of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the bills are directly settled by the CGHS.

Inadequate consumption of MSME products

†104. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether inadequate consumption of the products produced by micro, small and medium enterprises can be attributed to lack of advertisement;

(b) if so, the expenditure to be incurred on this issue during Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) the names of countries, the products of which are ahead of us in terms of consumption of products produced by these enterprises;

(d) whether any Group of Ministers has been constituted to consider the issue of self dependence by encouraging Swadeshi; and

(e) if so, the suggestions made by the Group and to what extent they have been implemented alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) One of the major problems faced by the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) relates to marketing of products produced by the MSMEs. To assist the MSMEs in this endeavour, the Government is implementing a Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme under which, *inter-alia*, assistance is provided to the MSMEs for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.